

04-36

Calvin Howell

From: Bill Dendinger [billd@hartel.net]
Sent: Saturday, February 21, 2004 4:10 PM
To: Michael Powell
Subject: VOIP

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Good afternoon Commissioner Powell: I would like to take this opportunity to express my concerns over VOIP issues before the commission. We are a small exchange company and do not have the staff or the time to travel back to Washington on a regular basis like the big companies do to plea our case so I am doing the next best by writing you. I have some real concerns where this VOIP looks like it could be heading. I read that there is a feeling by some that this not a telecommunication service. I don't understand this. To keep it simple, it's voice traveling over telecommunication facilities terminating on exchange cable and in telephone switches to customers over their telephones. Tell me how this can not be telecommunication service? For these services to travel over our facilities with out access would be like letting vehicles travel our highway and interstate system without paying any taxes to build new or maintain what we have. These new type of services would have know way to get from point A to point B without our infrastructure and they should be paying for the use of it. How is the communications industry expected to build and maintain their infrastructure if they can't get payment from those who are using it. Worse case if they can't I see the expansion and upkeep of what's out there going away in a very short time.

I know we are a small exchange in rural Nebraska and our opinion may not carry much weight but I see this form of competition taking the industry down. I am all for competition but lets keep it on a level playing field.

Thanks for your time and consideration. Should you have any questions or I can be of help in any way please let me know.

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